

# PRESS QUERY

CONFIDENTIAL 92 ON 221-412  
Dead Creek file E6  
11/19/80  
147923

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: Soil Samples -- Monsanto/IEPA

REPORTER & MEDIA: Pat Szymczak, Globe Democrat

TIME & DATE: November 19, 1980

## QUESTION & RESPONSE:

Q. MR. KELTY OF THE ILLINOIS EPA TOLD ME THAT HE SAW NO VALUE IN TAKING ADDITIONAL SAMPLES AT DEAD CREEK (AFTER THE EPA HAD ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF ITS INITIAL ANALYSIS ON SEPTEMBER 24). MR. KELTY ADDED, "BUT WE AGREED TO RUN THE TESTS BECAUSE MONSANTO REQUESTED THEM." WHY DID MONSANTO MAKE THIS REQUEST?

A. At a meeting September 29 in Springfield between Monsanto and Illinois EPA representatives, we offered to assist the Illinois EPA in determining the soil content of Dead Creek. We did not request sharing samples and analyses. We had the analytical resources to help and as a responsible industrial citizen of the community we offered our assistance to help resolve the situation.

Q. THE ILLINOIS EPA SAID THAT THEIR ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES SHOWED THAT PHOSPHORUS WAS PRESENT IN THE SAMPLE. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THE RESULTS OF YOUR PHOSPHORUS ANALYSIS?

A. Monsanto did analyze for elemental phosphorus. No elemental phosphorus was detected in any of the samples, which implies that elemental phosphorus is not responsible for the "smoking earth" condition reported at the site. The type of phosphorus that was found is prevalent in soap, detergents and the soil, among other things. Elemental phosphorus does smolder on exposure to the air but the other type of phosphorus does not result in smoking or smoldering.

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## SOURCE OF ANSWER

Files, Jack Molloy and Paul Heisler

## HANDLED BY:

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